

HERALD DISPATCH
SIERRA VISTA, AZ 85635
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Photo by Vic Meadors

VIP's (Very Intelligent Persons)

Among the distinguished guests at last Friday's dinner meeting of the National Military Intelligence Association (NMIA) were, left to right, Brig. Gen. Harry Heistand, commander of the Intelligence Center and School and member of the NMIA Board of Directors, Col. Ransom Barber, Col. Alvin Dalton, retiring president of the NMIA, Lt. Gen. Vernon A.

Walters, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency and new president of the NMIA, and Sen. Chic Hecht of Nevada, member of the NMIA Board of Directors. Other new officers of the NMIA include Maj. Carey G. Tomlinson, vice president, and Col. N. Dean Schanche, secretary-treasurer.

Need stressed for intelligence

Lt. Gen. Vernon A. Walters, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, told delegates of the first annual convention of the National Military Intelligence Association (NMIA) at a dinner Friday evening at the Ramada Inn that intelligence is not a dishonorable profession, but one important to the survival of the United States.

"The nation needs the eyes of intelligence," Walters said. "No nation which neglects its own security can survive. If we are to remain free, we must know the

dangers before us," he stressed.

"We owe it to the American people and future generations to know the challenges ahead that may possibly threaten us," Walters continued. "We must know the shape of the challenges and have no right to be unprepared."

In his defense of the intelligence system, Lt. Gen. Walters pointed out that Moses sent a spy into the land of Canaan and that Nathan Hale, considered a Revolutionary hero, was a spy.

"What worries me somewhat about Hale," Walters said, "is that he got caught on his first assignment. He hid his secrets in his shoe and that's the first place the British looked," Walters joked.

The lieutenant general read several presidential quotes on the importance of intelligence, including statements by George Washington, James Polk, Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson.

Walters called the formation of the NMIA "a

truly worthwhile and ambitious task." He said he hoped the organization would grow in membership and influence because "the nation needs people willing to dedicate their lives to intelligence." He called on the NMIA members to explain to those around them that intelligence is neither dishonorable or dishonest. "We must convince the U.S. people of the need for intelligence. If we can do that, the flag will never be fallen," Lt. Gen. Walters concluded.

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Receives charter

Col. Jack Dalton, left, president of the National Military Intelligence Association, is shown presenting Lt. General Vernon A. Walters a charter membership in the association. Walters, who is deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency,

Washington, D.C., will be guest speaker this evening at the closing banquet of the NMIA convention. The banquet, followed by a dance, is scheduled for 8 p.m. at the Ramada Inn.